

Appln. No. : John P. Biel, Jr. et al
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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS:

Reconsideration of the application as amended is earnestly requested. The Examiner's remarks and cited references have been received and carefully considered.

As a preliminary matter, Applicants point out that an amendment to Claim 1 was made in the preliminary amendment dated July 19, 2001. The amendment to claim 1 simply added the feature set forth in canceled claims 2 and 3.

Claims 1, and 4-26 are pending in the application as claims 2 and 3 have already been canceled.

A request to amend Figs. 1, 2, 3 and 8 is submitted herewith. Examiner states that "the drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include the following reference characters not mentioned in the description: 49" (page 6, line 6); 90A (page 10 line 27)." In Fig. 1, the reference character 49", which points to an "annular space," has been added to conform with the requirements set forth in 37 CFR 1.84. Furthermore, in Fig. 2, the reference character 90A has been added to point to the "electrical circuit" and a lead line has been added pointing 99A to the "sensor" to which it pertains. Reference characters 21B and 22B in Fig. 3 have been changed to point to the inner housing and outer housing, respectively. Furthermore, in Fig. 8, the lead line for reference character 26JJ has been shortened to point to the "vacuum cavity." No change was made with respect to the reference character 91II, as this reference character is present in Figs. 6 and 7 and is defined in the specification at page 14, line 16.

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In the specification, in the paragraph starting at page 5, line 11, "or cavity" was added to conform with the remainder of the specification. Additionally, the specification starting in the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 8 has been amended to refer to reference characters 40 and 50 as "spoke-like bodies." Further, on page 9, line 5, "400C" has been amended to read "400 degrees C" and page 20, line 21 has been amended to reflect the fact that there are more than two embodiments disclosed in the application. In the paragraph starting at page 11, line 15, the reference characters 46B and 49B' were amended to denote an outlet tube section and a reinforcement tube, respectively, and the reference character 32B was amended to point to a "temperature sensitive hydrogen source device" in conformity with similar reference characters in the specification. Furthermore, the reference character 32II' has been amended to properly read 32II in the specification.

Claim 9 has been amended to overcome the Examiner's rejection under 35 USC §112 (second paragraph). Claim 9 is supported in the specification on page 9, line 2-3 which reads: "[T]he thermal expansion of the metal PCM up to a typical exhaust temperature is in the 5-8% range, which is considerably below the expansion of salt." Claim 9 has been amended to incorporate this language.

Claim 13 has been amended to overcome the Examiner's rejection under 35 USC §112 (second paragraph), and indicates that the predetermined optimum temperature operating range is between about 200°C for the lower limit and 400°C for the upper limit. Applicants believe that this change places this claim in condition for allowance.

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It is respectfully requested that all pending claims should now be allowed, since the references, taken singly or in combination, do not teach the invention set forth herein. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence, and all identified enclosures and attachments are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, on 11/16/04.


Carl S. Clark

BRC/CSC/brc/jkrp
Enclosures

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Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings includes changes to Figs. 1, 2, 3 and 8. These sheets replace the original sheets for Figs. 1, 2, 3 and 8. In Fig. 1 and 2, previously omitted elements 49" and 90A have been added. In Fig. 3, elements 21B and 22B have been corrected to point to the inner housing and outer housing, respectively and Fig. 8 has been amended to show that the lead line for element 26JJ points to the vacuum cavity.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet
Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

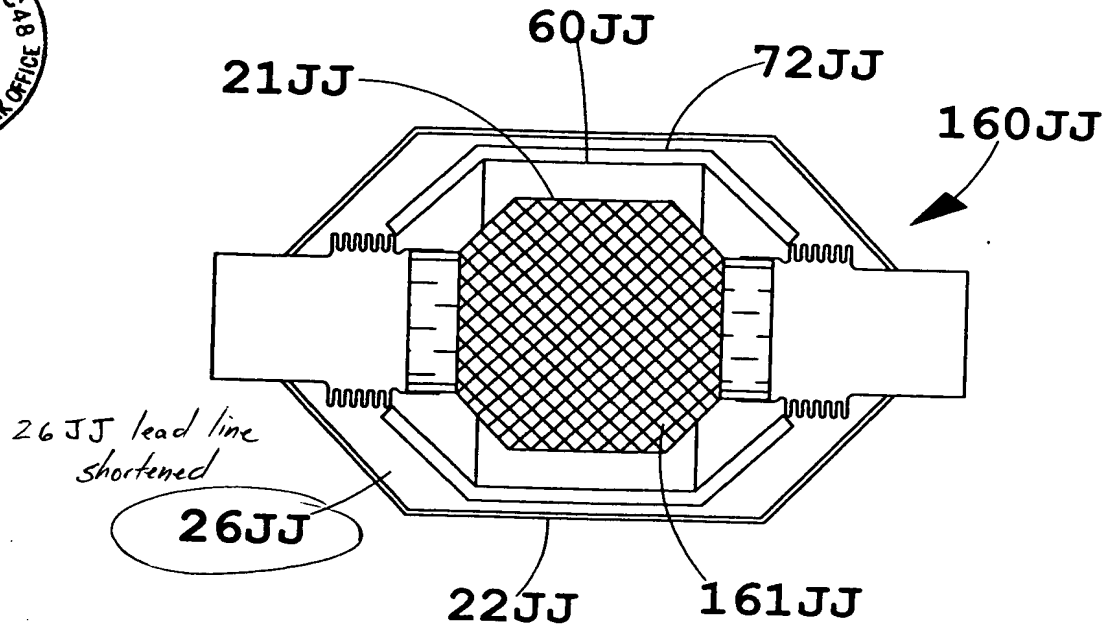


FIG. 8

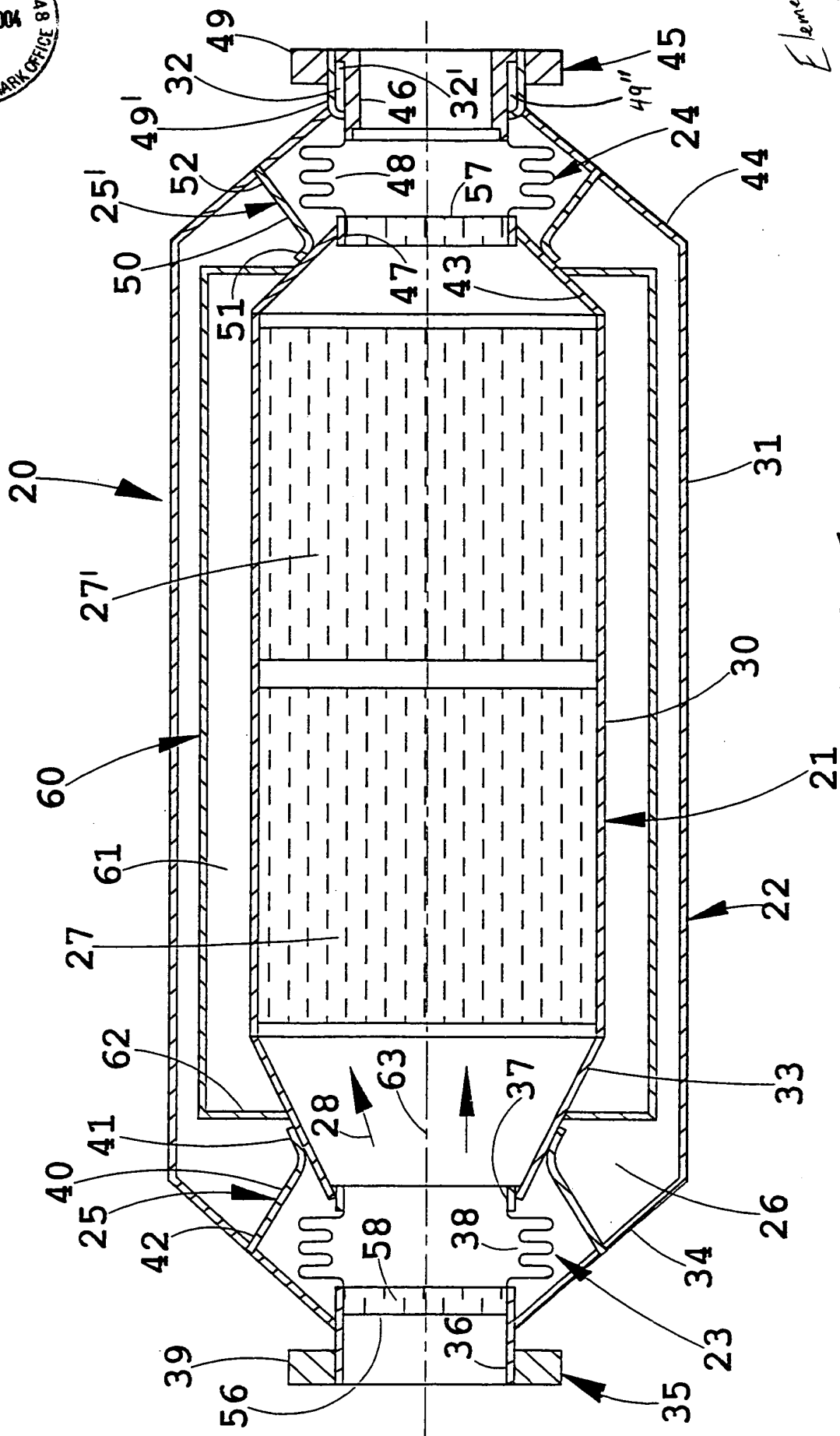
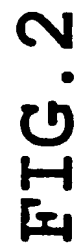
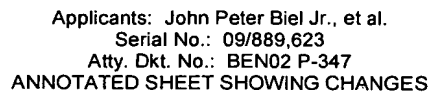


FIG. 1

Element 49" added



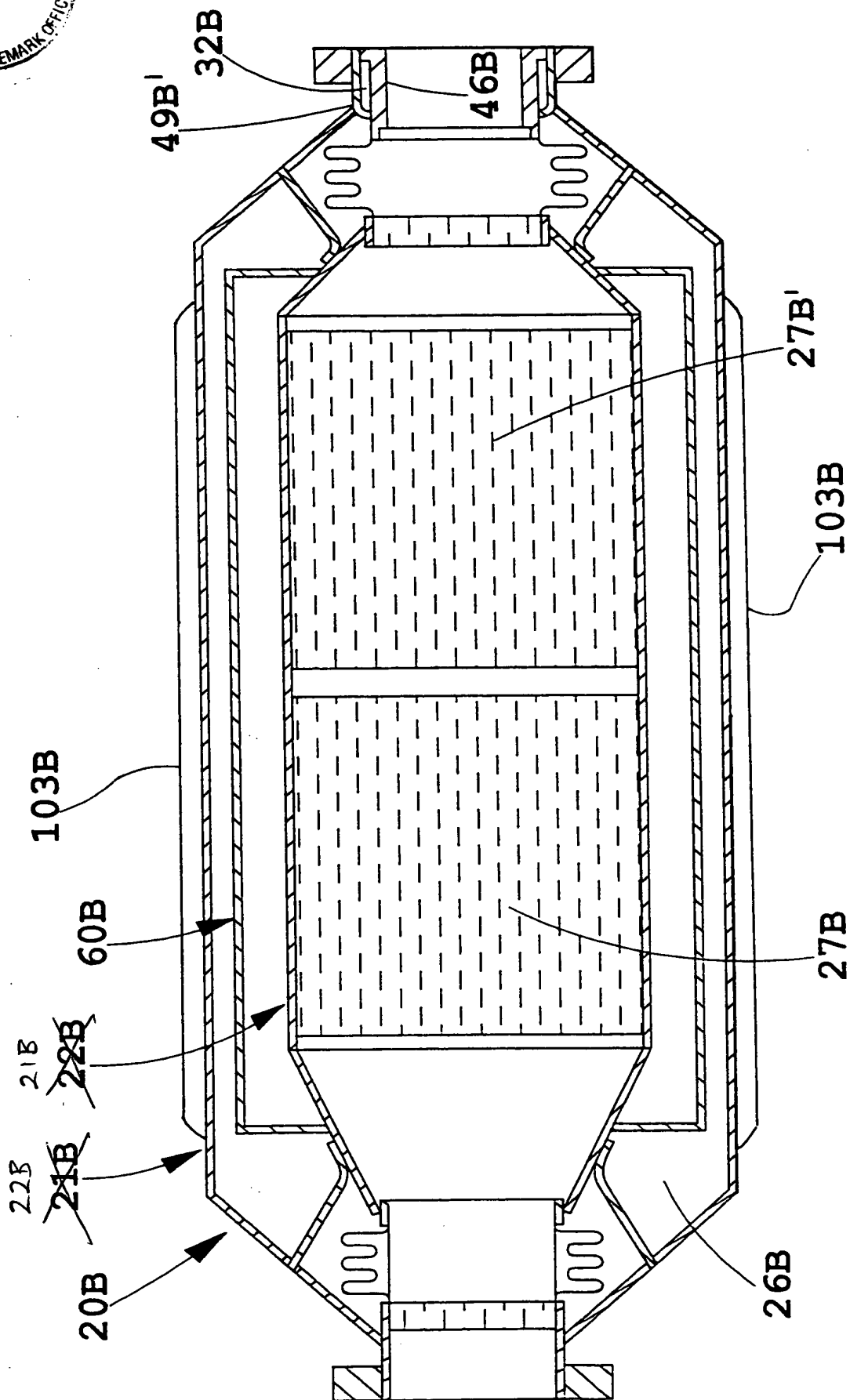


FIG. 3